

2001: A SPACE
ODYSSEY™

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BASED ON CONCEPTS
FROM THE MGM
STANLEY KUBRICK
PRODUCTION



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BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™



FROM OUT OF THE MONOLITH-- THE
MOST AWESOME CREATION OF ALL!
MISTER MACHINE!



71486 02672

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

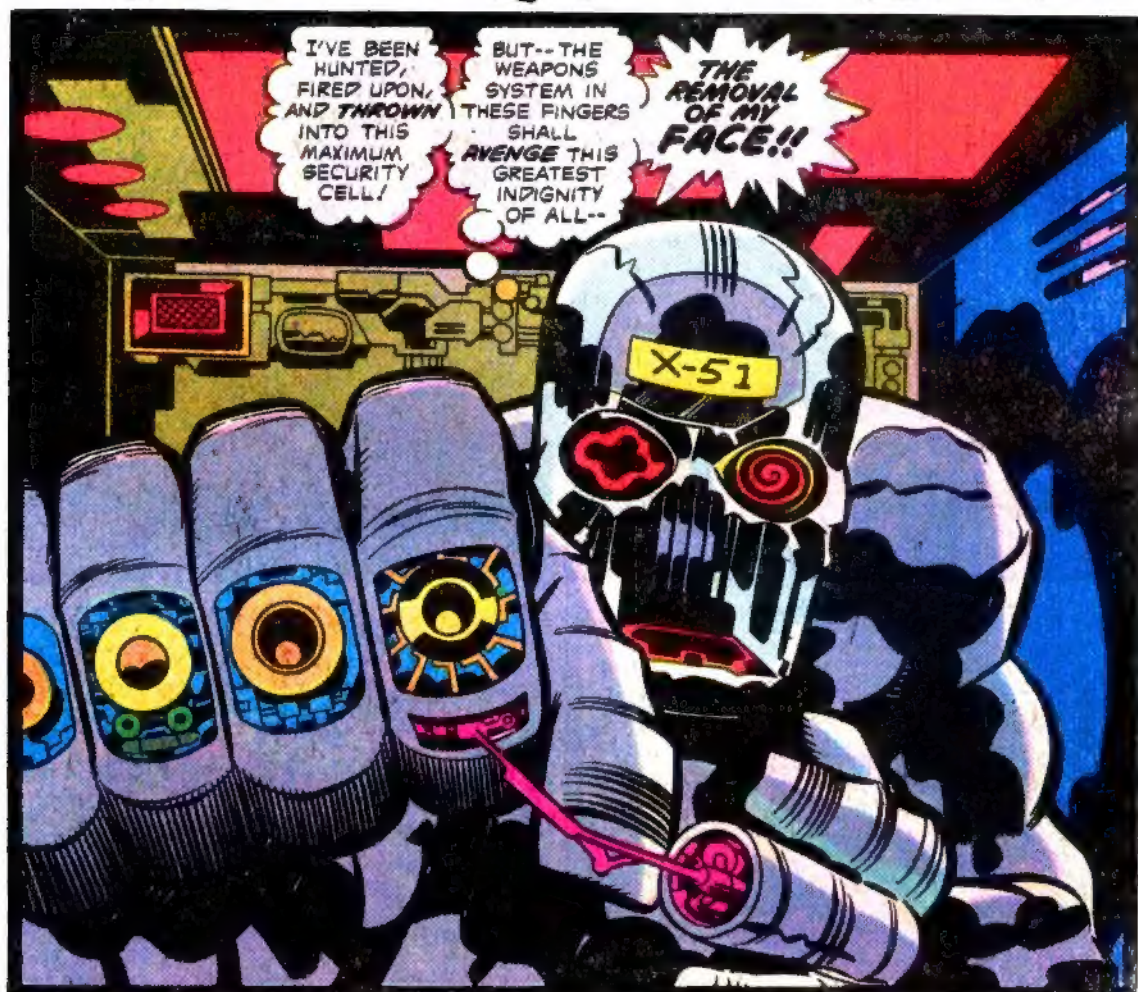
2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

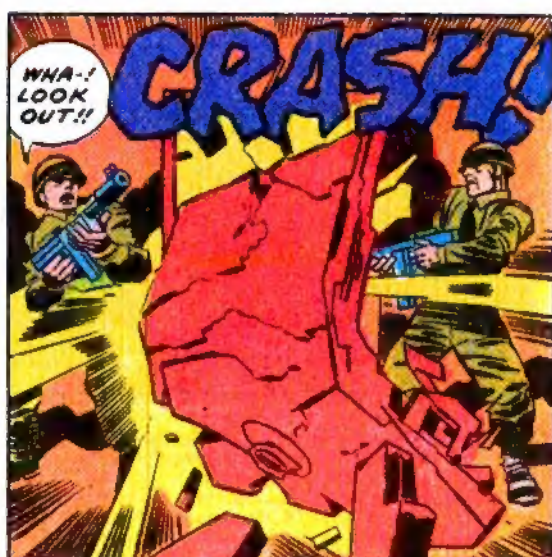
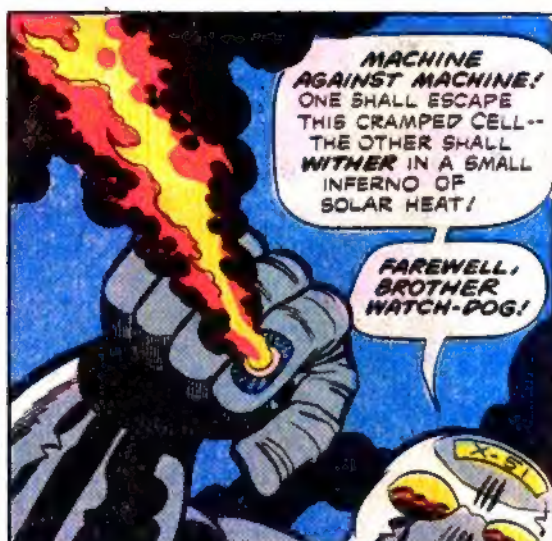
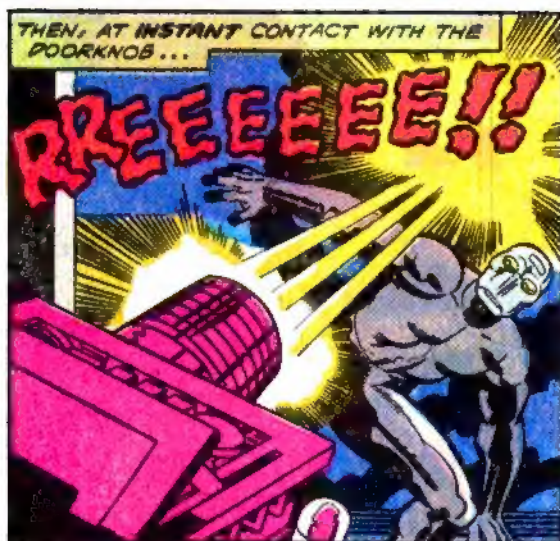
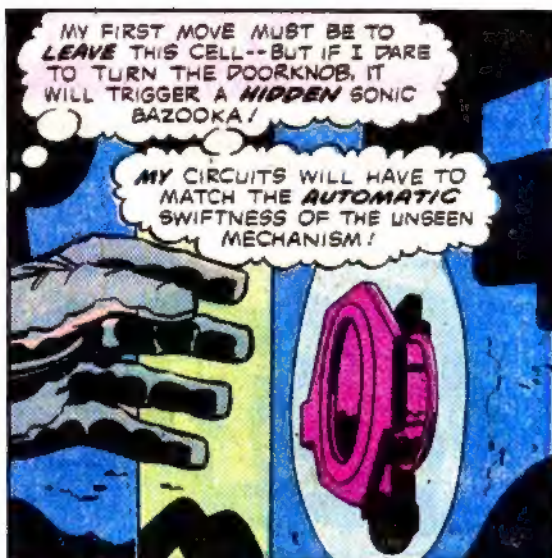
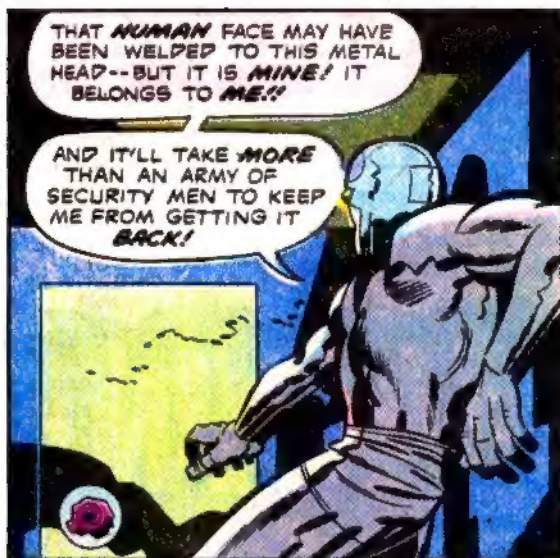
EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERED N' INKED BY **MIKE ROYER** • COLORED BY **G. ROUSSOS** • ENJOYED BY **A. GOODWIN**

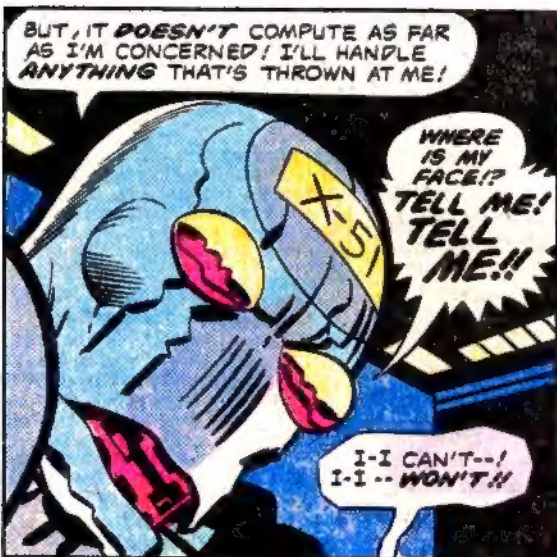
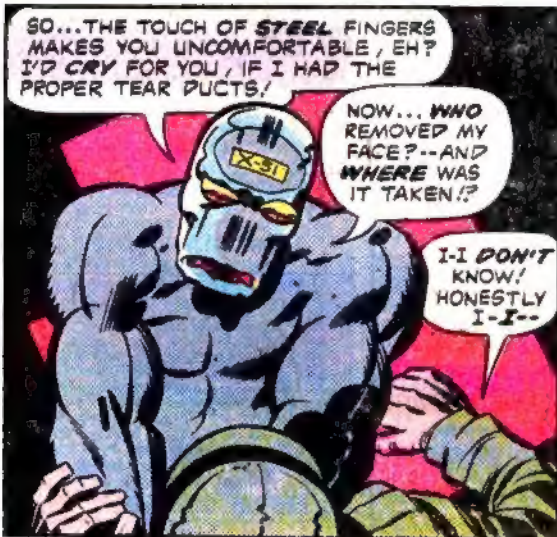
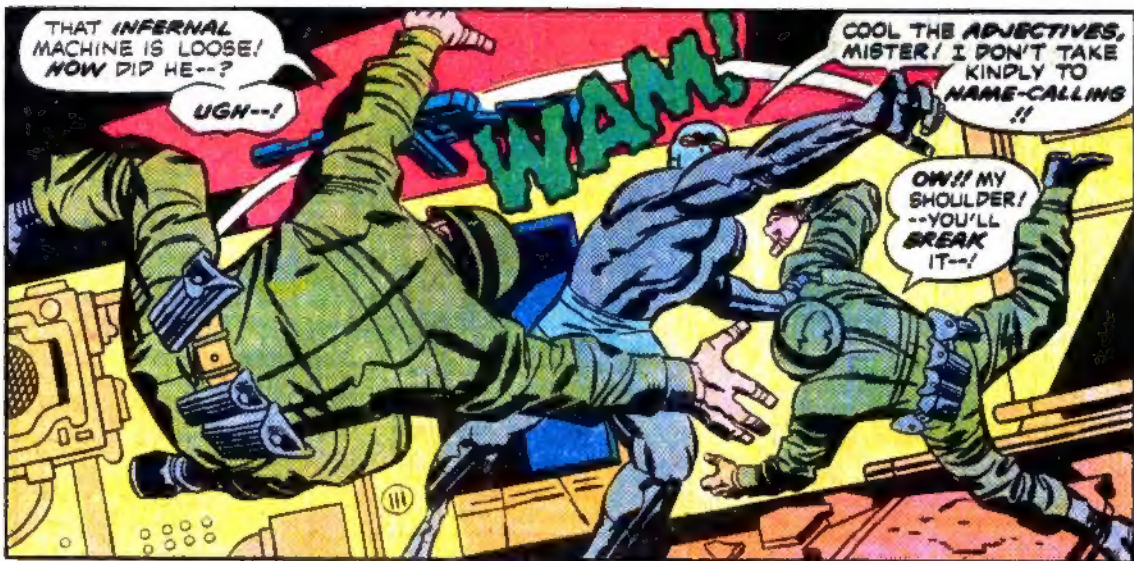
THIS IS THE ODYSSEY OF X-51--A "THINKING" COMPUTER!! HE IS ABOUT TO FACE THE WORLD AS IT IS--A WORLD NOT QUITE READY FOR HIS KIND! AND, AS IT DOES TO ALL OF US, THE WORLD WILL MAKE OF HIM WHAT HE IS TO BECOME!! WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF THE ULTIMATE WEAPON, RAISED AS A MAN?? READ--BIRTH OF A SUPER-HERO!!!

MISTER MACHINE



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SOON, AFTER THE GUARD PASSES OUT...

I'VE BORROWED
HIS HELMET
AND WEAPON,
BUT I'LL NEED
MORE THAN
THAT!

HIS
SPEAKING
VOICE IS
ESSENTIAL
TO MY
PLAN!

WITHIN THE THROAT OF X-51, THE RECORDER
WHICH HAS TAPED THE VOICE OF THE GUARD
IS ACTIVATED...

I'LL FEED
HIS WORDS
INTO A
SCRAMBLER
UNIT AND
REARRANGE
THEM TO
FULFILL MY
OWN
PURPOSES!

THEN...

LET ME GO, DAMN YOU!
THIS IS A BIG COMPLEX!
IT'S HEAVILY GUARDED!
IF I'M HARMED YOU'LL
BE REDUCED TO NUTS
AND BOLTS!

LET-BIG-C-O-M-
HEAV-GUAR-IF-
RE-MED-R-DU-
NUTS-PLEX-1-B-
E-AN-OLTS-LY-
TH-MN-15-O--

WHEN THE SPEECH IS
REARRANGED...

SEND IN THE TROOPS
ON THE DOUBLE! THAT
MACHINE IS TRYING TO
BREAK OUT OF HIS
CELL!!

X-51 COMPLETES THE SCRAMBLE AND
PAUSES WHERE THE SHADOWS ARE DEEP-
EST IN THE CORRIDOR. WITH RAISED HAND
HE SENDS A LIGHT SHOCK BEAM AT THE
ON BUTTON OF A CLOSED CIRCUIT TV SET.

SEND IN THE TROOPS ON THE
DOUBLE! THAT MACHINE IS TRYING
TO BREAK OUT OF HIS CELL!!

IS THAT
YOU,
HANLEY?
WHAT'S
WRONG?

HANG
ON!
WE'RE
COMING
IN!!

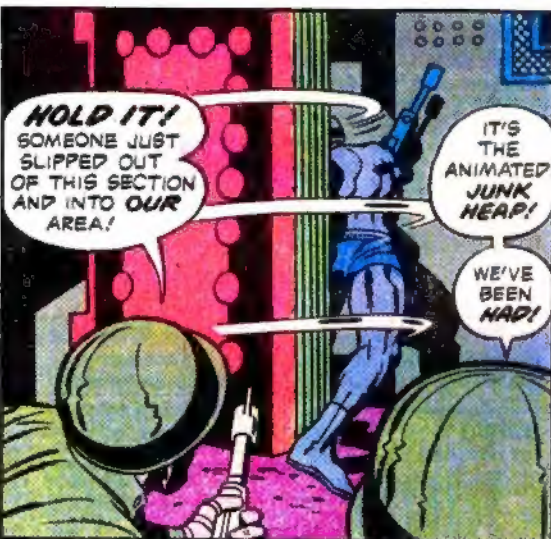
THE DECEPTION DOES ITS WORK. A GREAT STEEL DOOR OPENS TO ADMIT THE SUDDEN SURGE OF ARMED GUARDS...

SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK THEY'LL TAKE THIS IN GOOD SPIRIT!

HEAR ANYTHING?

NO! DO YOU THINK...?

STOP THINKING AND START SHOOTING IF THAT THING IS LOOSE!



HOLD IT! SOMEONE JUST SLIPPED OUT OF THIS SECTION AND INTO OUR AREA!

IT'S THE ANIMATED JUNK HEAP!

WE'VE BEEN HAD!



KLANNNGG!!

THAT'S THE FLAMING TRUTH, CHUMS!

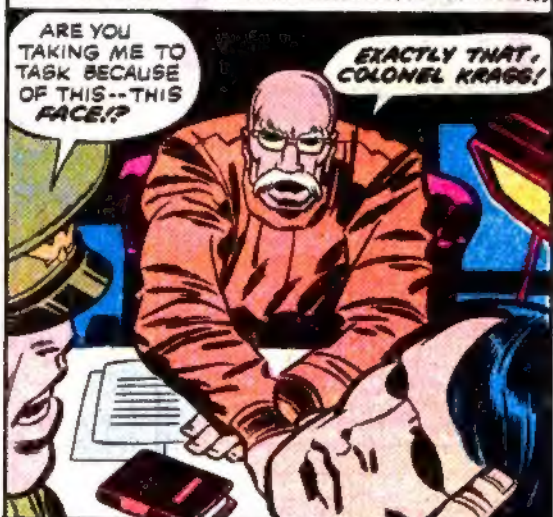
YOU'VE BEEN PUT OFF LIMITS !!

X-SI HASTENS ON. SOMEWHERE, IN HIS MECH-ANICAL STRUCTURE, THE EMOTIONAL MYSTERY HE SHARES WITH HUMANS FLARES WITH HOT INTENSITY. HIS INJURED PRIDE NOW TURNS TO RIGID DETERMINATION...



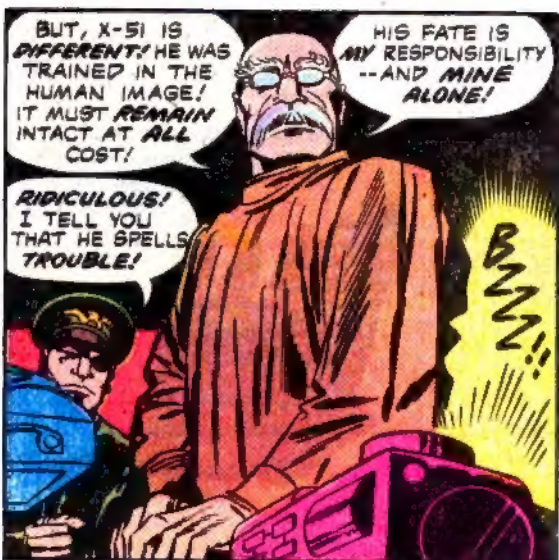
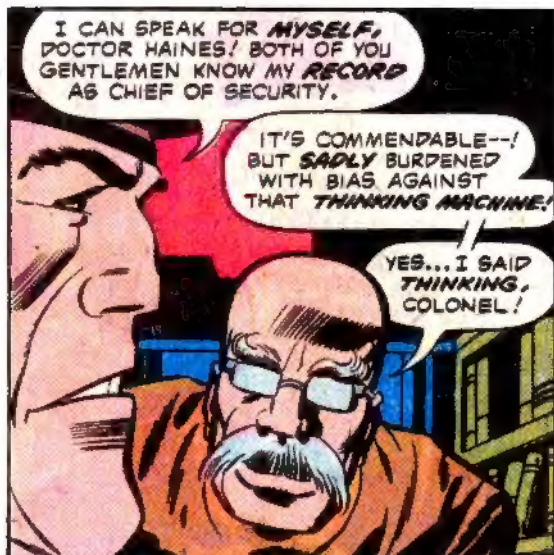
I'LL FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IF I HAVE TO TAKE THIS COMPLEX APART-- SECTION BY SECTION!

MEANWHILE, IN THE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE...



ARE YOU TAKING ME TO TASK BECAUSE OF THIS-- THIS FACE!?

EXACTLY THAT, COLONEL KRASS!





WHY WAIT, BROADHURST! THIS IS IT! TURN OUR SONIC WEAPONS ON HIM! CRACK HIS ARMOR WITH SOUND UNTIL IT SHATTERS!

KRAGG'S RIGHT! WE MUST FINISH HIM-- WHILE WE CAN STILL DO IT!!

NO!



THESE ARE MY ORDERS! CEASE ALL RESISTANCE! MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO HARM X-51!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT! HE'LL SLAUGHTER MY MEN! HE'LL KILL US ALL!

GOOD LORD, BROADHURST!



YOU'VE LOST YOUR SENSE OF COMPETENCY! THAT DECISION WILL AFFECT MORE THAN THIS RESEARCH PROJECT!

BE STILL! I'M FULLY AWARE OF WHAT I'VE DONE!

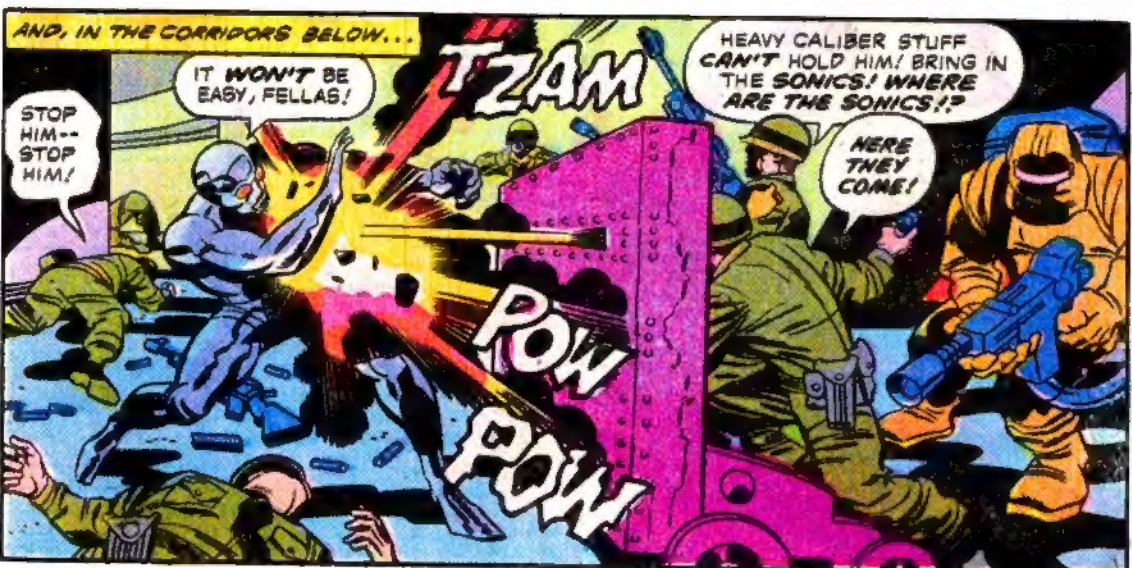
YOU'RE A TRAITOR TO OUR SPECIES! WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW IS UPON YOUR HEAD!



I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU INTEND TO PERMIT THAT THING TO LEAVE HERE--AS FREE AS A BIRD!

YES, I DO! I AM NOW ADDING THE INGREDIENTS THIS EXPERIMENT NEVER HAD -- FAITH AND TRUST IN EACH OTHER!

DON'T YOU--?



AND, IN THE CORRIDORS BELOW...

IT WON'T BE EASY, FELLAS!

STOP HIM-- STOP HIM!

HEAVY CALIBER STUFF CAN'T HOLD HIM! BRING IN THE SONICS! WHERE ARE THE SONICS!?

HERE THEY COME!

IZAM

POW
POW

SUDDENLY, WITH A SAVAGE MOTION, X-51 TEARS THROUGH THE THICK METAL SHIELD...

LOOK OUT!

AAA--!

HE'S SHAPPING THAT SHIELD LIKE IT WAS MADE OF CARDBOARD!

RRIIPP!

YOU'LL HAVE TO BLAST ME WITH AN A-BOMB TO KEEP ME FROM MY GOAL!

STAND ASIDE!

I CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT AT HIM WITH THIS SONIC RIFLE!

WAK!

KRAK!

I'M NOT WAITING FOR YOU TO USE THOSE SONICS ON ME!

ONLY A MISSILE AT MAXIMUM SPEED COULD MATCH THE FORWARD THRUST MADE BY X-51...

A FEW NEW TWISTS IN THAT WEAPON SHOULD KEEP IT OUT OF ACTION!

KRIK!

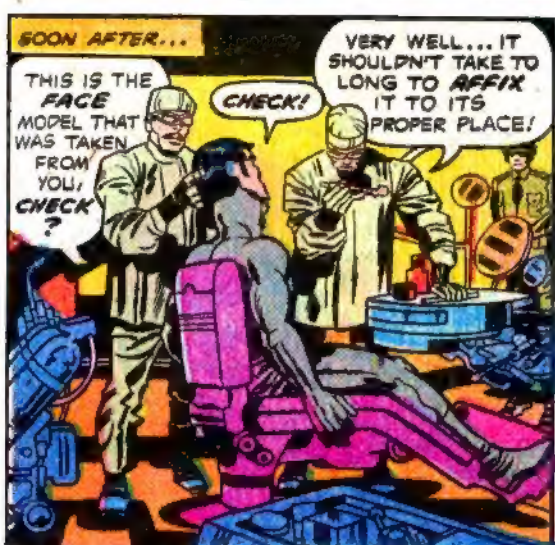
WHY, YOU--!

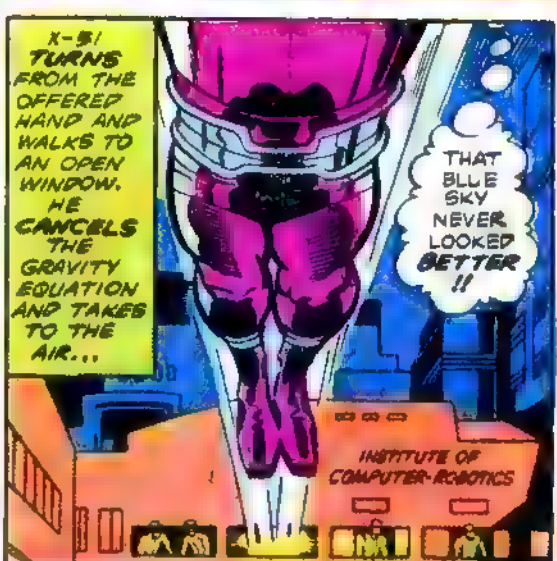
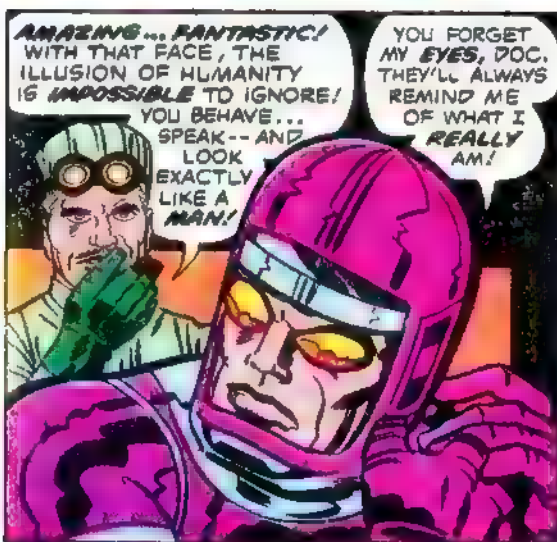
A LOUD COMMANDING VOICE CUTS SHARPLY THROUGH THE CHAOS...

KNOCK IT OFF!

THE BATTLE'S OVER!

I SAID HOLD IT!!





BUT, THERE ARE INTERESTED WITNESSES TO HIS DEPARTURE...

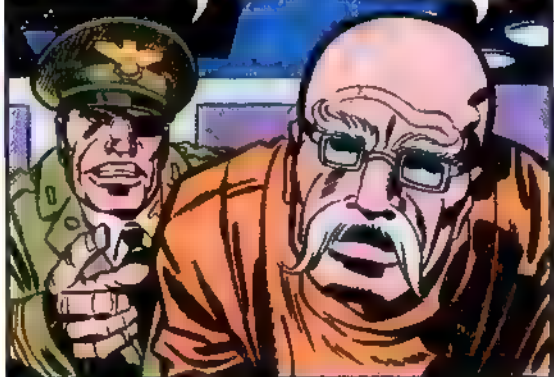
WE CAN'T KEEP *THAT* KIND OF BIRD IN A CAGE, KRAGG! HE NEEDS *ALL* THE SPACE HE CAN GET!

HE'LL TAKE IT BY *FORCE* IF HE HAS TO! YOU'VE JUST RELEASED A WORLD *MENACE*, DOCTOR!



YOU'LL LIVE TO *SEE* THIS DAY, BROADHURST! WE'LL SEE HOW YOU FEEL WHEN THE *REPORTS* COME IN! *REPORTS* OF INJURY --AND *DEATH*!

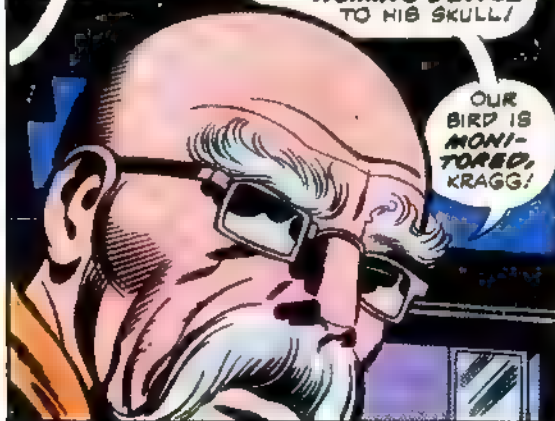
DON'T PANIC, KRAGG... I'M *NOT* THE FOOL YOU TAKE ME FOR. THIS IS A *CONTROLLED* EXPERIMENT!



I-I *DON'T* UNDERSTAND! FILL ME IN!

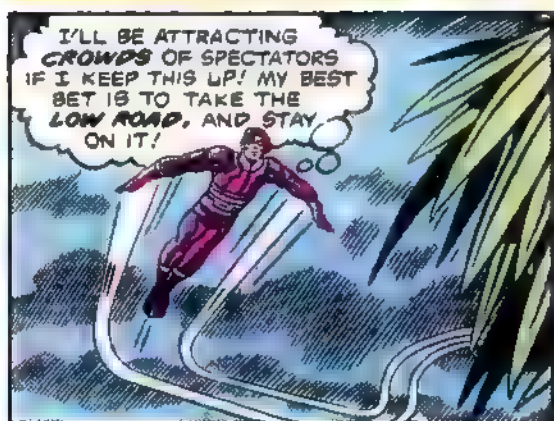
WHEN HIS FACE WAS *WELDED*, I ORDERED AN *M-4 TECHNIQUE*! IT MEANT TO AFFIX A *HOMING DEVICE* TO HIS SKULL!

OUR BIRD IS *MONI-TORED*, KRAGG!

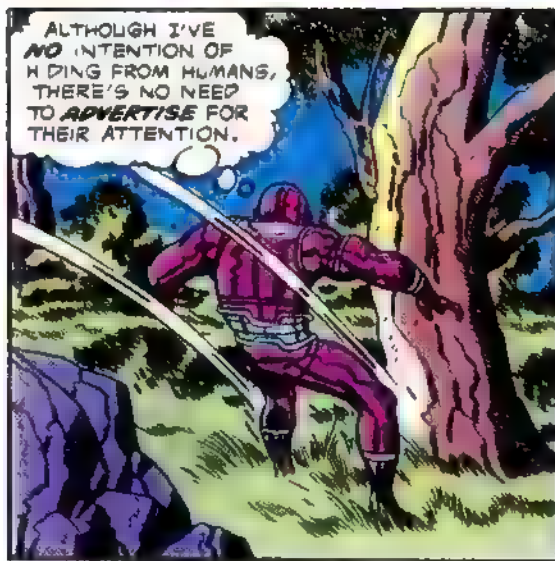


THE THOUGHTS OF X-SI NO LONGER DWELL ON THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE. HE *SAVORS* THE JOY OF FLIGHT AND THEN *REFLECTS* ON THE *WISDOM* OF THIS METHOD OF TRAVEL...

I'LL BE ATTRACTING *CROWDS* OF *SPECTATORS* IF I KEEP THIS UP! MY BEST BET IS TO TAKE THE *LOW ROAD*, AND *STAY* ON IT!



ALTHOUGH I'VE *NO* INTENTION OF *HIDING* FROM HUMANS, THERE'S NO NEED TO *ADVERTISE* FOR THEIR ATTENTION.



WHAT I NEED NOW IS -- *DIRECTION*... A *PLAN*.



AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM
PLAGUING X-SI, THE MONOLITH
APPEARS...

WHA--?! IT'S
THE STRANGE
OBJECT THAT
MATERIALIZED
IN THE CELL!*

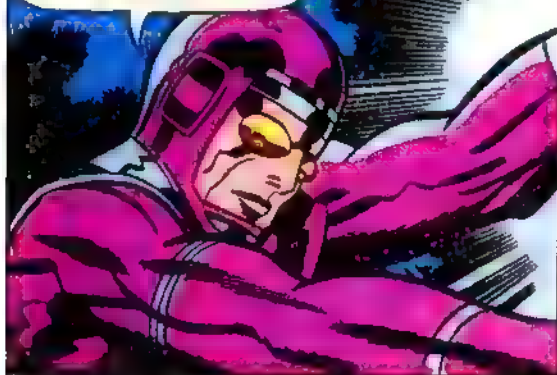
* THAT WAS
LAST ISSUE...
REMEMBER?
J.K.

IT'S NATURE IS UNPATHOMABLE. BUT THERE IS
NO DENYING THAT CONTACT WITH IT HAD
HELPED HIM TO ESCAPE. HE APPROACHES
THE THING WITHOUT FEAR...



THERE IS NO EXCHANGE OF WORDS,
BUT THERE IS COMMUNICATION...

NO--I SHALL NOT SEEK
DESTINY. IT WILL FIND
ME--AND LEAD ME TO
MY DESTINED PATH!

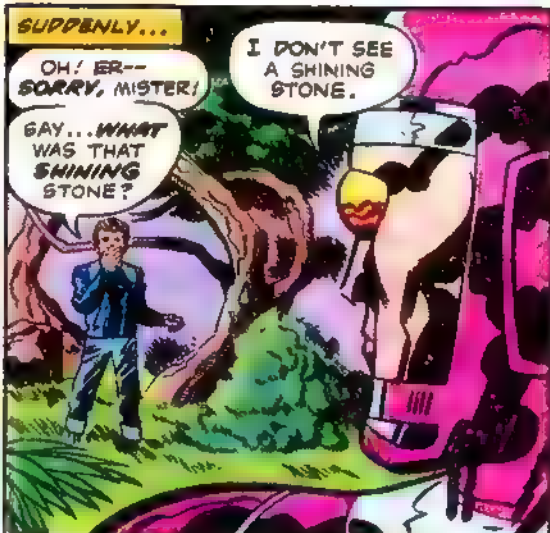


SUPPENLY...

OH! ER--
SORRY, MISTER!

I DON'T SEE
A SHINING
STONE.

GAY...WHAT
WAS THAT
SHINING
STONE?



I--IT'S GONE, NOW, BUT
I'M SURE I SAW...

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU SAW,
FELLA--AT
ANY RATE, I'VE
LITTLE
INTEREST IN
YOUR FANCIES!

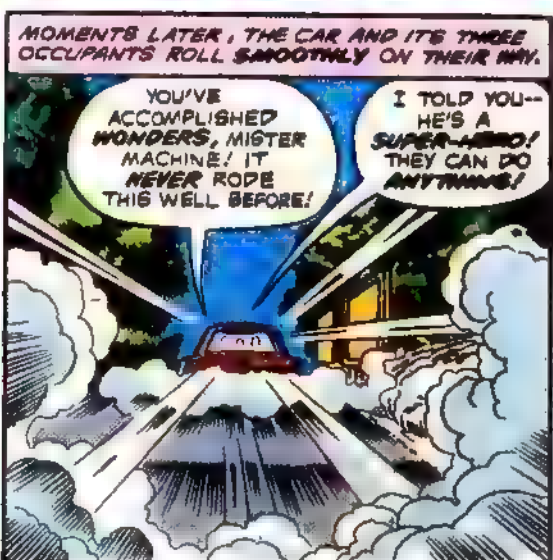
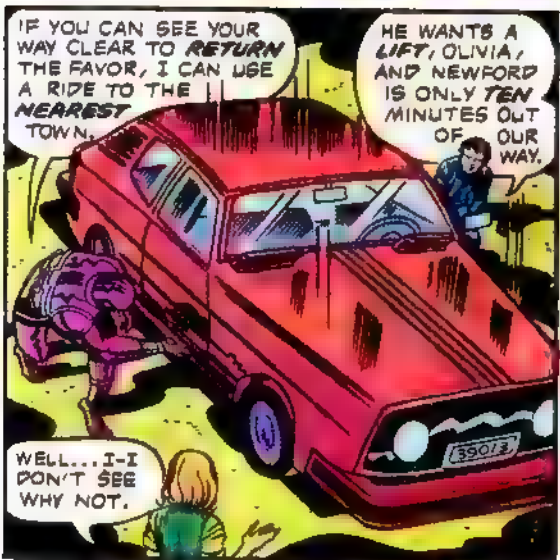
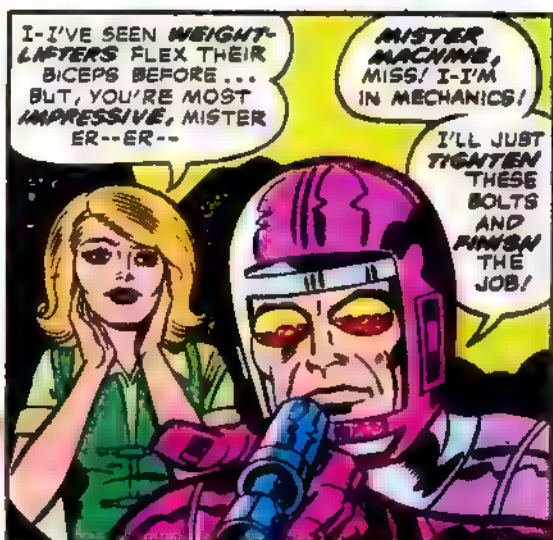
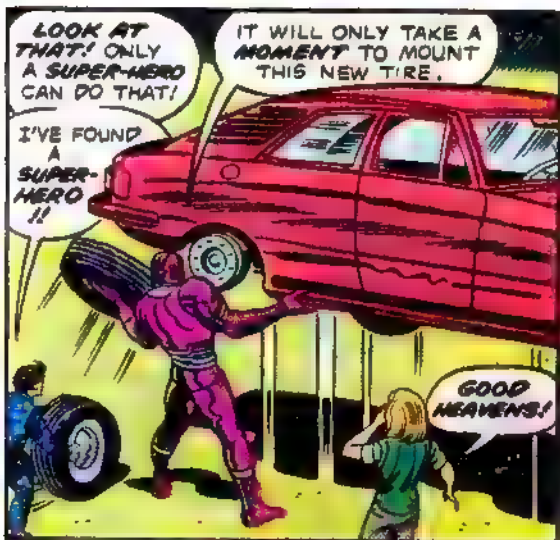
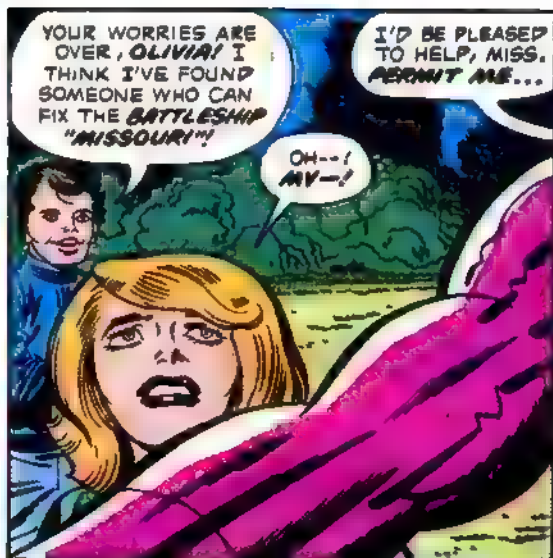
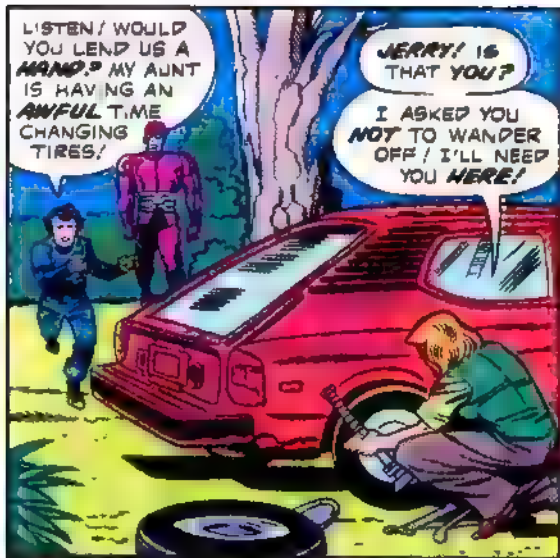


WELL, YOU'VE CERTAINLY
GOT ME EXCITED! YOU
LOOK LIKE ONE OF THE
MARVEL SUPER-HEROES!

I CAN'T
ADMIT TO
THAT HONOR.

NOW... IS
THERE
SOMETHING
ELSE ON
YOUR
MIND?





BUT DESTINY IS CAPABLE OF STREWING ONE'S PATH WITH SEEDS OF EVIL WHEN THE FUTURE BECOMES BRIGHTEST...

MY VIGILANCE HAS PAID OFF HANDSOMELY, KRINGE. IT SEEMS THAT ONE OF THE RUMORED "X-MODELS" ESCAPED DESTRUCTION!

I-IT SEEMS THAT WAY, MISTER NOTLINE!

GOOD THINKING, KRINGE! I LIKE A MAN WHO DOUBTS UNTIL HE'S CERTAIN! BUT, I HAVE THE POWER TO REMOVE THAT DOUBT! I SHALL SUBMIT HIM TO AN UNSHAKABLE TEST!

FOLLOW THAT CAR, KRINGE!

Y-YES SIR! AT ONCE!

I-I'LL KEEP PACE WITH HIM AT A DISCREET DISTANCE. IF OUR QUARRY IS THE REAL ARTICLE, HE MAY BE EQUIPPED TO DETECT OUR PRESENCE!

ALL TOO TRUE! BUT WE ARE NEVER WITHOUT PROTECTION--ARE WE, KRINGE?

THOSE WHO SERVE ME KEEP CLOSE AT HAND--LIKE DOGS ON A LEASH!

HOVER-SQUAD!

THIS IS A SCRAMBLE ALERT!

WHEN I GIVE YOU THE CO-ORDINATES--ATTACK AT WILL--! I SHALL BE WATCHING!

WE'RE ON OUR WAY, SIR!

HIS HUMAN COMPANIONS ARE UNABLE TO HEAR THE CRACKLE OF RADIO-WAVES COURSEING THROUGH THE AIR, BUT X-51 PICKS THEM UP IMMEDIATELY...

THAT WAS AN ODD SIGNAL! --A GARBLED SOUND ON A FREQUENCY LEVEL OF INFINITE REFINEMENT!

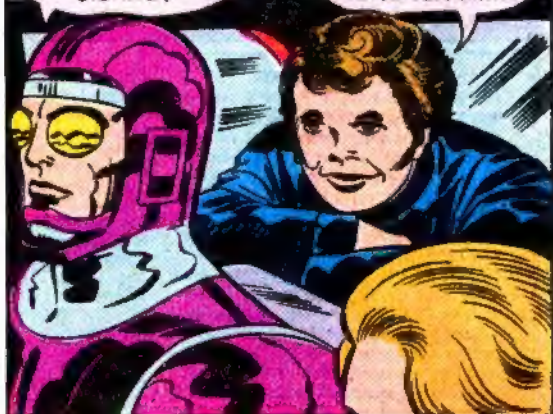
WHAT'RE YOU LISTENING TO SUPERHERO? ARE YOU EXPECTING A MESSAGE FROM THE AVENGERS--OR MAYBE THE FANTASTIC FOUR?!

JERRY! PLEASE--!



THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MISS. THE FACT IS THAT MY--ER--EAR-PHONES DID REACT TO SOME SORT OF SIGNAL!

I KNEW IT--! THERE'S ACTION BREWING! MY GUESS IS THAT DOCTOR DOOM IS AFTER HIM!

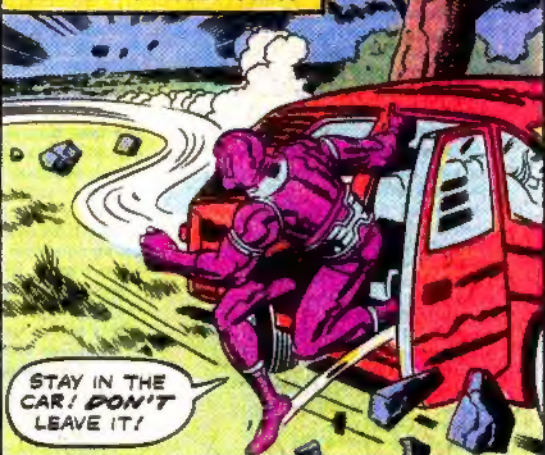


YEOOWW! LOOK BEHIND US!!

TARGET SIGHTED! ATTACK!



AS THE CAR IS DRIVEN OFF THE ROAD TO AVOID DANGER, X-51 LEAPS OUT TO MEET THE CHALLENGE...

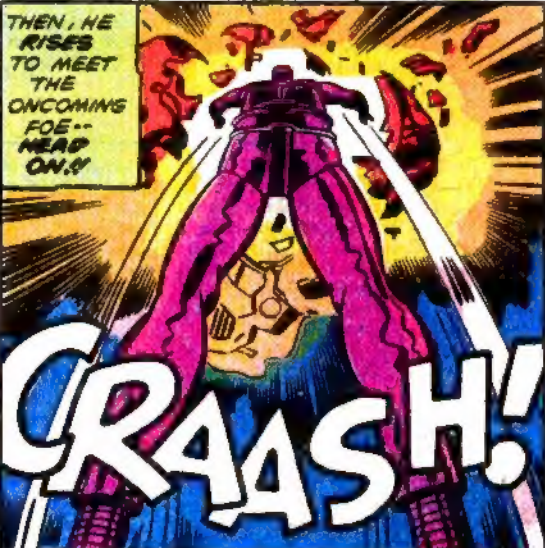


STAY IN THE CAR! DON'T LEAVE IT!

HE RUSHES DIRECTLY INTO THE PATH OF THE ATTACKERS. HIS FOOT SHAFTS DIG INTO THE GROUND TO GAIN FIRM ANCHORAGE...



THEN, HE RISES TO MEET THE ONCOMING FOE--HEAD ON!!



X-51
COMPLETELY
DEMOLISHES
THE
FIRST
CRAFT.
HE
RETRACTS
QUICKLY,
AS
ONE
OF
THE
OTHERS
LANDS
NEARBY...

THAT GOON
REALLY WANTS
TO MAKE A
FIGHT
OF IT!

THAT'S A
SONIC
WEAPON HE'S
CARRYING!
I CAN'T LET
HIM USE IT!

YOUR LUCK'S RUN
OUT, IRONPANTS!
I'M GONNA PUNCTURE
YOUR THINK-TANK!

WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, X-51'S RIGHT EYE
LENS BECOMES A SNIPER-SCOPE, AIMED
SHARPLY
AT HIS
ASSAILANT...

A SHOCK WAVE OF SAVAGE INTENSITY
STRIKES HIS TARGET...

FLOOM!

THESE DUM-DUMS ARE UNEQUAL
TO THE WEAPON-SYSTEM IN MY
FINGERS! BUT... THEY DO
KEEP TRYING!

NUMBER THREE
IS SPORTING SOME
KIND OF CANNON!

THE HOVER-CRAFT CLOSES IN. ITS
HEAVY WEAPON ROARS...

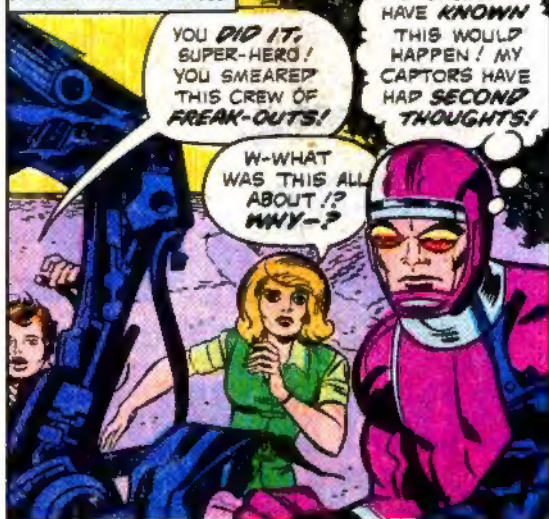
BOOMM!!

THAT ONE
MERELY
SHOOK
ME, SWINE!
YOU
LOSE!

A MIGHTY METAL ARM FLASHES FORWARD IN A DEADLY ARC, UNTIL...



MOMENTS LATER...



YOU **DID IT**,
SUPER-HERO!
YOU **SMEARED**
THIS CREW OF
FREAK-OUTS!

I SHOULD
HAVE **KNOWN**
THIS WOULD
HAPPEN! MY
CAPTORS HAVE
HAD **SECOND**
THOUGHTS!

W-WHAT
WAS THIS ALL
ABOUT!?
WHY--?

WHO **ARE** YOU, ANYWAY?
YOU LOOK STRANGE. YOUR
CLOTHES ARE STRANGE.
Y-YOU'RE NOT LIKE ANY
MAN I'VE **EVER** SEEN!

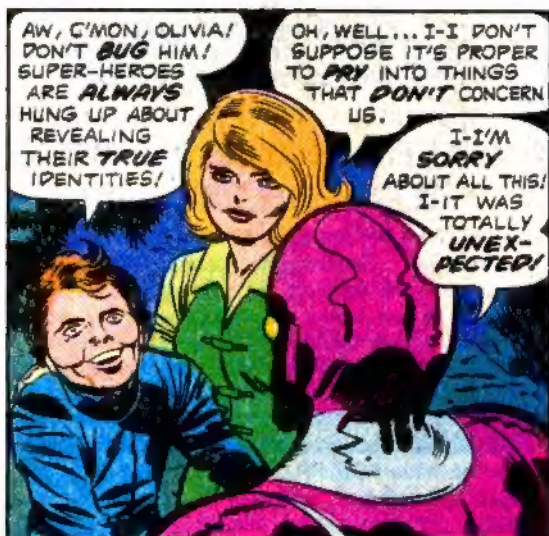
I-I KNOW THAT
YOU **DESERVE**
AN ANSWER, MISS,
BUT I'D RATHER
NOT DISCUSS IT!



AW, C'MON, OLIVIA!
DON'T **BUG** HIM!
SUPER-HEROES
ARE **ALWAYS**
HUNG UP ABOUT
REVEALING
THEIR **TRUE**
IDENTITIES!

OH, WELL... I-I DON'T
SUPPOSE IT'S PROPER
TO **ARY** INTO THINGS
THAT **DON'T** CONCERN
US.

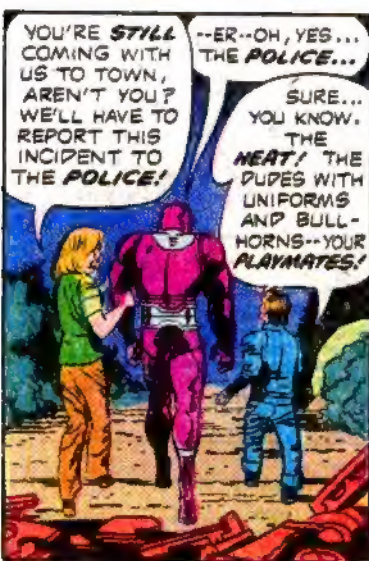
I-I'M
SORRY
ABOUT ALL THIS!
I-IT WAS
TOTALLY
UNEX-
PECTED!



YOU'RE **STILL**
COMING WITH
US TO TOWN,
AREN'T YOU?
WE'LL HAVE TO
REPORT THIS
INCIDENT TO
THE **POLICE!**

--ER--OH, YES...
THE **POLICE...**

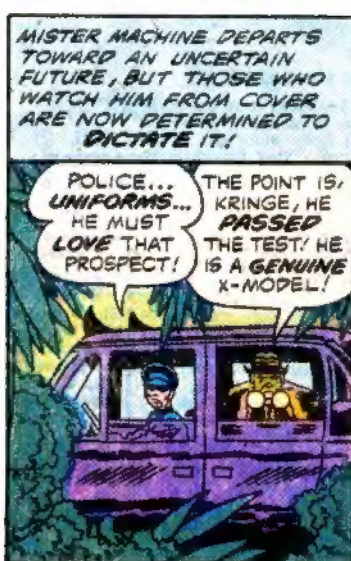
SURE...
YOU KNOW.
THE
HEAT! THE
DUPES WITH
UNIFORMS AND
BULL-
HORNS--YOUR
PLAYMATES!



MISTER MACHINE DEPARTS
TOWARD AN UNCERTAIN
FUTURE, BUT THOSE WHO
WATCH HIM FROM COVER
ARE NOW DETERMINED TO
DICTATE IT!

POLICE...
UNIFORMS...
HE MUST
LOVE THAT
PROSPECT!

THE POINT IS,
KRINGE, HE
PASSED
THE TEST! HE
IS A **GENUINE**
X-MODEL!



DOES A MACHINE HAVE A
SOUL? THAT QUESTION LEAPS
TO ACTION NEVER SEEN BEFORE!
STAND BY FOR--

HOW TO HOLD TO HOLD